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Rep. Leland sued on unpaid \$50,000 loan

By BILL COULTER
Houston Chronicle

A Houston businessman has filed a lawsuit to collect an unsecured \$50,000 loan he said he made to U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland in November 1986 and that was to be repaid in 60 days.

Leland, through a spokesman, declined to discuss the lawsuit by Fred Chang.

However, Jerry W. Gunn, Chang's attorney, said Leland called Wednesday to say he will repay the loan within a week.

The personal loan was not listed on Leland's 1986 congressional financial disclosure statement he filed May 13.

Leland, D-Houston, signed a note Nov. 12, 1986, promising to repay the loan within 60 days at an interest rate of 15 percent, Gunn said.

He said Leland was asked several times to repay the loan in 1987 and Chang, who lives in the Clear Lake area, offered to forgive the interest if Leland would repay the principal by Dec. 31.

Leland agreed, but failed to make the payment, Gunn said.

Sandi Stevens, Leland's press secretary, said Leland was in California on Wednesday.

Leland's Democratic primary opponent, Houston school Trustee Elizabeth Spates, has said he has become rich while the standard of living has deteriorated for many constituents in his 18th Congressional District.

Leland will repay \$50,000 loan

U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, who was sued for non-payment of a \$50,000 personal loan from a Houston businessman, has promised to pay the money back by Wednesday, the businessman's attorney said Thursday.

Attorney Jerry W. Gunn, who represents Clear Lake businessman Fred Chang in the state district court lawsuit filed in January, said an aide to Leland told him the Nov. 12, 1986, unsecured loan was not

paid back on time due to an oversight.

According to the suit, Chang is seeking repayment of the \$50,000 plus accumulated interest because it was not repaid within the time specified in the loan agreement. The suit said the interest totaled \$4,714.95 as of Oct. 31, 1987, and has been accumulating at the rate of \$18.49 per day since then.

Leland had no comment, Leland spokeswoman Sandi Stevens said.